Towards a New Form in the Writing of Canadian History

Archivaria, the journal of the Association of Canadian Archivists (ACA), is devoted to the scholarly investigation of archives in Canada and internationally. Articles and other submissions are welcomed which explore the history, nature, and theory of archives and the use of archives. The journal aims to be a bridge of communication among archivists, and between archivists and users of archives.

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Towards a New Form in the Writing of Canadian History

David C. Jones

Full Text:
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Up to this point, Canadian political economy and economic history had been dominated by the writings of Harold Innis, which in summary argued that external trade relations, and a staples resource based economy, shaped Canada. Now a new Marxist school of thought emerged that sought to both critique capitalism and re-tell the past by arguing that Innis’s staples thesis, was not something to be celebrated, but rejected. Here we see academics that, after having failed to bring about change in politics, turned instead towards revolutionizing the writing of Canadian political economy and history by moving beyond the dominance of Innis’s staples thesis.